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**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE RECORDING  
OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL DATA IN AN  
IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE**

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**Abstract of the Invention**

Techniques are provided for controlling the recording of diagnostic data, such as intracardiac electrogram (IEGM) data, so as to reduce device power consumption. In one technique, the risk of onset of an arrhythmia is evaluated and the recording of diagnostic data is then selectively controlled based upon the evaluation. More specifically, a temporary "pre-trigger" memory for recording IEGM data is activated only at times when there is a significant risk that an arrhythmia will actually occur. Power savings are thereby achieved as compared to devices that require the pre-trigger memory to be continuously active. In another technique, parameters employed to trigger the recording of diagnostic data are adaptively modified to reduce the likelihood of any unnecessary recording of such data. Preferably, both the risk-based techniques and the adaptive techniques are implemented in the same system.